

bably as much as twenty-six feet from hollow to summit, from base to ridge. Gaining the larboard paddle-box, the professor observes that occasionally four or five successive waves mount above the horizon, and hence are thirty feet in height; and he notices too that they run no longer in continuous ridges, like a range of green hills, but assume more of the form of moderately elongated cones.

Having thus far satisfied himself as to the height of Atlantic waves in a great gale of wind,* our hero proceeds to inquire into minuter details. His next object is to measure the time occupied by the regular waves in overtaking the ship, their width from crest to crest, and their rate of speed. First he ascertains the speed of the ship: she is going at the rate of nine knots an hour. Next he notes her course in reference to the direction of the waves: she is steering east, while the waves come from the west-north-west. Consequently they pass under the good ship *Hibernia* at a considerable angle. Observe, the *length* of the vessel is 220 feet.

With these facts in his mind, the professor proceeds to count the seconds occupied by the

* Scoresby's observations do not apply to the highest known waves, such as occur during a cyclone in the Pacific, but to those of a rough Atlantic sea.